

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT, NEEDLES FIELD OFFICE

Message: The NFO oversees 3.6 millions acres of public lands and 1.38 millions acres of wilderness. It manages more acres of wilderness than any other BLM office (21% of all BLM wilderness acreage).

The vision of the NFO Wilderness Program is to provide leadership in Wilderness Stewardship by;

- Providing quality, accurate information to visitors through a system of signs, maps and brochures.
- Providing BLM presence and assistance to visitors through public contacts by BLM Rangers and field staff.
- Providing quality wilderness advise
- Maintaining accurate wilderness area files
- Monitoring visitor use
- Pursuing ways to holistically monitor within wilderness boundaries
- Participating in local, regional and national wilderness meetings, conferences, workshops, and trainings
- Providing an annual summary of accomplishments



During 2006 there has been one full-time Wilderness Specialist (Outdoor Recreation Planner), a split ($\frac{1}{2}$ time Wilderness $\frac{1}{2}$ time Recreation) Outdoor Recreation Planner (Wilderness Specialist #2) and 2 Student Conservation Association Interns (hired in November 2006 for an expected 6 month period to work as Wilderness/Recreation Technicians). In addition, a Recreation and Wilderness Branch Chief position was filled in the NFO and now provides oversight for the Wilderness Program. There is only one maintenance employee whose time is shared between recreation, wildlife, range, cultural resources, and wilderness projects. An additional maintenance position is expected to be filled in FY2007.

2006 Accomplishments

- Performance and Workload Measurement are outlined as follows;
 - The workloads for, outreach through interpretation and environmental education, inventory for presence of invasive and/or noxious weeds, and monitoring Wilderness were accomplished at 100%.
 - The workloads for issuance and management of Recreation Use Permits were targeted for eight while only five were reported as accomplished (63%).
 - The workloads for conducting patrols and enforcement activities were zero, however 36 units were reported.
 - The workloads for conducting non-drug investigative activities was zero, however two were reported.
- Inter-disciplinary projects

- Wilderness Signing Project completed (7 additional wilderness signs installed for Stateline, Kelso Dunes, Bristol Mountains, Trilobite, Dead Mountains, and Bigelow Cholla Cactus Garden Wilderness Areas)
- Lucky Green Mine Clean Up EA completed
- N. Mesquite Wilderness Burned Out RV Removal/Restoration EA completed
- Wilderness Monitoring; all NFO wilderness acres monitored with boundary patrols by Law Enforcement Officer (LEO), NFO staff and SCA Interns while interior areas were monitored by NFO Staff, SCA Interns, and a contract with Death Valley National Park to provide a Pilot and plane for aerial overflights, and with assistance of NFO Volunteer John Luke.
- Water Source Monitoring Program ongoing with ~62 of 209 water sources monitored in 2006.
- NFO Wilderness Specialist provided assistance to fire suppression efforts as a Resource Advisor (Valley Fire, June 7 & 8, 2006)
- NFO Wilderness Specialist #2 provided assistance to fire suppression efforts as a Comp./Claims Unit Leader
- Volunteer Projects completed
 - Sierra Club Service Trip to the Dead Mountains Wilderness Area on March 31 – April 2, 2006. A wilderness sign was installed, barrier fencing repaired and tamarisk seedlings removed in Picture Canyon area.
 - NFO Volunteer Pilot logged a total of ~24 flight hours monitoring wilderness boundaries and areas. One individual was observed driving in wilderness reported to BLM Rangers. The individual was caught and cited for driving in wilderness and destruction of vegetation. A conflict with *BLM Manual 1114.28b*; Volunteers was found. NFO working to find a positive resolution.
- Projects in process
 - Cooperative efforts with California Fish and Game on the SD Guzzler EA
 - Wilderness Signing Project
 - 2 new signs ordered from BLM Sign Shop in August 2006 (Piute Mountains and Whipple Mountains Wilderness areas). An email from the BLM Sign Shop indicated the signs should be ready in early 2007.
 - Determination of locations, installation and use of trail (2) and vehicle counters (3) to assist with the collection of visitor use data.
 - Ongoing wilderness monitoring, including aerial monitoring of wilderness.
- Training and Professional Development
 - NFO Wilderness Specialist & Recreation and Wilderness Branch Chief attended CDD Wilderness Workshop (May 2006)
 - NFO Field Manager attended Wilderness for Managers Training (June 2006)
 - NFO Wilderness Specialist #2 attended Regional Wilderness Stewardship Training (November 2006)

Wilderness Monitoring

- Traffic counters
 - Trail and vehicle counters, including software received in July 2006. Software installed and working in December 2006 with counters to be placed in the field sometime in 2007
- Documented monitoring;
 - 1,458,859 acres (gross estimation)

- SCA Interns began working in November 2006 and enhanced NFO ability to monitor areas within wilderness boundaries
- National and Regional interest in wilderness monitoring
 - Aerial monitoring of NFO wilderness areas with assistance from Death Valley NP accomplished in July 2006 (use of park pilot and park plane) and anticipated to become a yearly event.

Wilderness Law Enforcement and Fire Incidents

- LE Wilderness Patrols
 - Re-establish need for LEOs to do monthly wilderness reports
 - Advise LEOs of activities and potential problem areas within wilderness areas
- LE Wilderness Incidents
 - Tickets issued: 8
(6 - motor vehicle in wilderness, 2 - destruction of plants/soil)
 - One stolen car recovered from Wilderness
- Wilderness Fire Activity
 - 7 wildfires burned 1309 acres in Wilderness
 - 5 fires in KingstOn Range Wilderness burned 527 acres
 - 2 fires in N. Mesquite Mountains Wilderness burned 782 acres
 - NFO Wilderness Staff provided wildland fire support
 - NFO Wilderness Specialist II served on Type 1 Incident Management Team as a Comp./ Claims Unit Leader on ~3 large incidents
 - NFO Wilderness Specialist was a resource advisor and red carded as a FFT2, EMTB & HECM